

# Teacher Apprenticeship Kentucky

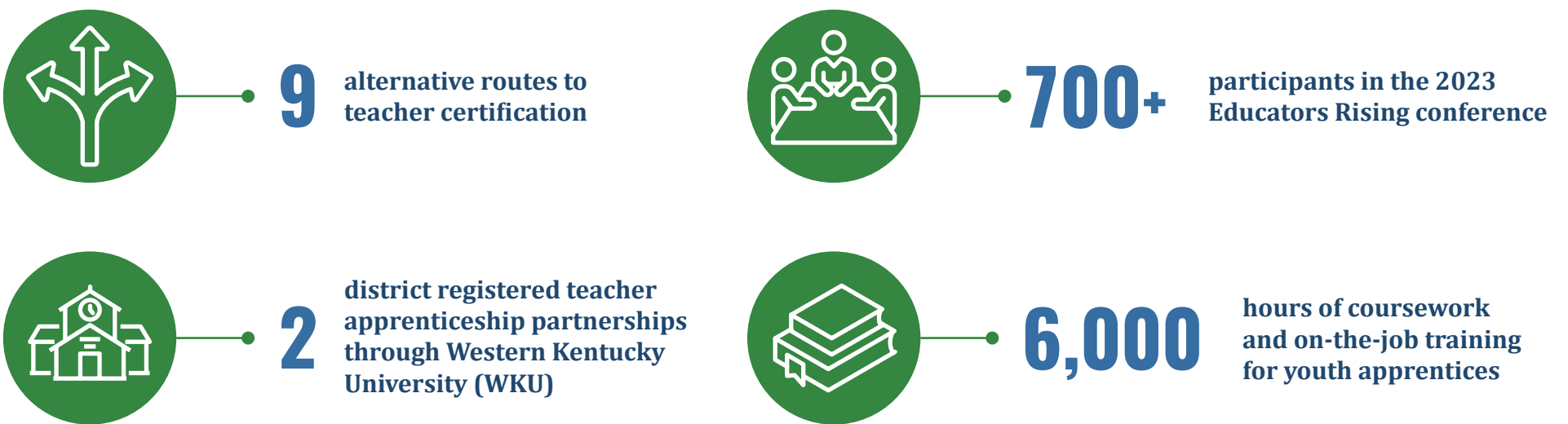


The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) approved the first nationally registered K–12 teacher apprenticeship program in January 2022, opening the door to a rapidly growing pathway for prospective teachers. DOL has now approved registered teacher apprenticeships in more than 30 states. Kentucky’s first program is registered through the Kentucky Career Center, which is operated by the state’s Office of Employer and Apprenticeship Services. The Kentucky Department of Education is currently seeking federal approval for a statewide registered program.

## What Is Teacher Apprenticeship?

Teacher apprenticeship is an “earn and learn” pathway to a teaching credential that provides structured, paid, on-the-job learning experiences combined with job-related technical instruction and mentorship. Teacher candidates serving as apprentices are paid by their employer while they participate in the program, helping to make their pathway into the profession more affordable.

## Kentucky Teacher Pathways by the Numbers



## Kentucky on TRACK

The Kentucky Department of Education Office of Career and Technical Education (KDE CTE) partnership with the Kentucky Department of Workforce Development Office of Apprenticeship was recognized by the DOL in 2022 as an apprenticeship ambassador. The Tech Ready Apprentices for Careers in Kentucky (TRACK) youth apprenticeship model provides secondary students with career pathway opportunities and registered apprenticeships. Within TRACK, the Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness and KDE CTE opened an education career pathway to recruit a diverse and effective workforce from the state’s population of high school students.

## How It Works

Building on the pathway opportunities of TRACK and partnering with WKU, students in Nelson County School District can join the registered teacher apprenticeship program in ninth grade. From the start, the students receive 2.5 hours daily of experiential learning. During their 4-year high school career, students participate in dual credit enrollment to attain 59 hours of college credit as well as 24 hours toward teacher certification. The paid youth apprenticeship starts in the student’s junior or senior year. Upon graduation, the student apprentices will continue to be paid employees of Nelson County Schools and enrolled at WKU to complete the remaining 61 hours toward a bachelor’s degree.

## Journey to Teacher Apprenticeship

